Graduate Council Minutes | 11/29/2023

Present: Brooke Belisle, Kimberly Bell, Agnieszka Bialkowska, Lily Blocker, Elizabeth Boon, Susan Brennan, Kara DeSanna, Michael Ferdman, David Green, Melissa Jordan, Chris Kretz, Richard Larson, Celia Marshik, Jose Moscoso-Nunez, Brian Nucci, Colleen O’Toole, David Rubenstein, Marcia Simon, Arleen Steckel, Daniel Waxman

Absent: Holly Colognato, Allegra DeLaurentiis, Sonia Harmand, Gianna Juliano-Hooper, Hanna Nekvasil

1. Meeting called to order at 2:01pm
2. Review of the minutes from 11/15/2023
   a. Amended attendance
   b. Motion to accept, Seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. New SUNY Korea Proposal
   a. For an MS in data science, to be offered on the SUNY Korea campus. This will require a full state review
   b. The proposed course and admissions requirements are the same as the program on the Stony Brook campus, as required by SUNY policy
   c. Requesting two new faculty, but no commitment letter.
      i. Possibly have enough faculty to cover without new appointments, and no issues anticipated hiring faculty
      ii. SUNY does not require a commitment letter for review, but requires some symbol of intent (e.g., the commitment letter, or a job posting).
      iii. **Kara DeSanna will double-check that the Provost’s Office is aware of these commitments**
   d. This program is anticipated to be revenue-generating
   e. Admissions requirements are the same as for SBU programs, so e.g., same TOEFL scores are required
   f. Q: If needed, would we offer an online version of SBU courses so people could fulfill their requirements?
      i. A: It could be considered, but logistics are difficult; few courses are hybrid, the SUNY Korea program should remain independent, and time differences cause issues. Makes more sense for something like a special topics course.
   g. Main issue: what is the resource stream to hire new faculty, and is there documentation available?
      i. **Kara DeSanna will ask the Provost’s office**
      ii. **Dave Rubenstein will also ask for clarification from the program**
   h. Tabled until the next meeting pending further information from Kara and Dave.
4. Recertification of MS and PhD in Mechanical Engineering
   a. For local review only, last reviewed by the state in 1976 and 1994, respectively
   b. For the MS Degree:
i. Changed allowable number of research credits in MS thesis (up to 9, from 6)
ii. Added a 0-credit seminar course which is required
iii. Must take a minimum of 15 credits within MEC
iv. Discussion on whether this requires SUNY review.
   v. Tabled until the next meeting.

   c. PhD
      i. Similar change with a 0-credit seminar course
      ii. Teaching requirement is now documented
      iii. Used to require “a math course”; now have a specific course required
           (MEC 507)

   5. Recertification of MA, MS and PhD in Physics
      a. For local review only, last reviewed by the state in 1990, 2010 and 2012, respectively
      b. For the MA degree:
         i. “Pass masters examination” -> “pass qualifying exam at the master’s level
            or complete a master’s project”
            1. In line with SUNY requirements
      c. MS and PhD have no changes
      d. Motion to reaffirm the PhD in MEC, and the MA/MS/PhD in physics. Seconded.
         Approved unanimously.

   6. Dean’s Report
      a. Last year, voted to change the language policy to not require TOEFL scores for people from US territories
         i. Permanent residents were not included. The Graduate School would like
            to treat this as an omission; would this require a vote from the Graduate
            Council?
            1. Motion to include permanent residents with citizens. Seconded.
               Approved unanimously.
         ii. Q: Students have to pay for IELTS/TOEFL, but what about Duolingo?
            1. A: In the current bulletin. Thresholds are not listed because the
               evaluation process is different.
      b. Stony Brook is moving forward with several international recruitment contracts
         i. SBU has not historically moved forward with these contracts, but has
            become increasingly important for international recruitment.
      c. Postdoc spotlight was the Thursday before Thanksgiving
         i. Went well, well-attended.
      d. Have been reaching out to several different programs
         i. Chemistry Program, New Faculty Orientation, Emerging Leaders Program
         ii. Will bring up that GC has open seats for a humanities representative and
             social and behavioral sciences representative
      e. STEM Grad Education retreat in January
         i. Focused on lab culture for underrepresented students
ii. The last Council of Graduate Schools showed that underrepresented students in STEM have decreased
iii. Probably ½ day event
f. Next week, Celia will go to the Council of Graduate Schools Winter Meeting
7. Motion to adjourn at 3:18pm. Seconded. Approved unanimously.